

Recycling Lines

Electronic Newsletter

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Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Enhancement

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DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

Welcome to Recycling Lines, a look at recycling news in the Commonwealth and across the nation. We hope that some of this information is helpful to you in your programs, and hope you'll help us with news from your area related recycling. Had a successful collection event? Have a recycling problem? Let us know by sending this information to Steve Coe at gscoe@deq.virginia.gov.

America Recycles Day

Governor Mark Warner recognizes November 15 as Virginia Recycles Day! This is part of a national campaign called America Recycles Day.

There are activities scheduled around Virginia to celebrate recycling. For example, The Keep Nelson Beautiful Council will be at the Rockfish Collection Center on November 15 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. to meet with the public and share information about local recycling programs.

The City of Falls Church will hold drawings Tuesday – Friday and will randomly select two households each night to receive prizes for families that “Recycle Right.” Recycling Right includes the following:

- ✓ Flatten all cardboard boxes and fold or cut them to dimensions not to exceed 2 feet by 2 feet.
- ✓ Place newspaper, cardboard, and mixed paper in a paper bag or bundled them together with twine.
- ✓ Rinse all cans, bottles and jars.
- ✓ Remove caps or lids from cans and bottles (Plastic caps should be discarded).

The City of Falls Church will have a “Green Choices” Homes tour on Sunday, November 14 starting at 2 p.m. at 704 Randolph Street, the site of one of the first “deconstruction” projects in the City of Falls Church. Afterwards, there will be an America Recycles Day program.

The Central Virginia Waste Management Authority encourages citizens to increase their recycling rates. Citizens who take a recycling pledge are eligible for a drawing to win a Ford Escape Hybrid SUV or a child's bicycle made from aluminum. Here is the link to the recycling pledge and entry form:
http://www.vrarecycles.org/ard_2005.htm

Remember to Recycle Your Christmas Tree

Enjoy your tree all year! If you buy a tree with the roots still intact, the tree can be planted outdoors afterwards and can be decorated with orange slices, suet, bread and seed to attract birds.

Or, if you no longer want your tree, most municipalities have a tree collection schedule. Call your county or local government office to find out when they will be collecting trees. Your tree will most likely be recycled by grinding the trees into mulch which will then be used in municipal projects or offered to the citizens.

Did You Know?

- ✓ The Hanover Department of Public Utilities' Solid Waste Division in conjunction with Central Virginia Waste Management Authority (CVWMA) held an electronics recycling event for residents and businesses on Tuesday November 1. They accepted broken and out-of-use cell phones, computers and computer accessories, televisions, VCRs camcorders and stereos.
- ✓ Raked leaves make good compost; however, if you wish to get rid of your leaf piles, call your local governments to find out their leaf collecting schedule. To prevent clogging, do not rake the leaves into ditch lines or gutters. Do not put brush, limbs, rocks or other debris in with the leaves.
- ✓ The Fauquier SPCA is collecting empty inkjet and laser printer cartridges and digital cell phones as part of their new fund-raising program. The money collected from these recycled items will go into the Medical Assistance Fund which provides veterinary care for injured or sick shelter animals. For more information call the Fauquier ASPCA at (540) 788-9000 or visit <http://fauquierspca.com>
- ✓ St. Christopher's Lower School in Richmond held an electronics recycling collection event on Saturday, October 29.
- ✓ The City of Alexandria in conjunction with the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services Solid Waste Division is sponsoring a **Recycling Works! Expo** on Wednesday, November 30 at the Dr. Oswald Durant Center at 1605 Cameron Street in Alexandria from 8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. To register or for additional information call 703-751-5872 or email askrobbie@alexandriava.gov
- ✓ The 2006 Environmental Virginia Conference has been scheduled for April 18 – 20, 2006. For more information go to: <http://www.environmentva.org/>
- ✓ Packing peanuts can be reused by packing companies. Before sending styrofoam peanuts to the landfill, check with a local shipping business to see if they will take the peanuts. If you are packing something at home and need fillers, try using newspaper or plain, unbuttered popcorn.

Web Links of Interest:

- <http://www.groundwater.org/kc/recyclemaze.html>
- http://www.ci.mesa.az.us/waste/Holiday_Tale.asp

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Bags and Boxes

Cardboard recycling isn't just for brown boxes. Any paper box can be included for recycling. This includes clothing boxes and boxes that contain children's toys. To recycle children's toy boxes, remove the plastic, cellophane, and ties and flatten the box.

Paper department store bags can also be recycled with cardboard. Remove any non-paper area first (such as the handles) before including it with your recyclables.

Pledge to Participate

The Virginia Recycling Association invites localities and organizations to participate in Electronics Recycling Awareness Month in April, 2006. The purpose of this initiative is to educate people about the hazards that discarded electronics pose to the environment. To participate, localities/organizations are asked to plan electronics collection events. Visit www.varecycles.org for more information. Pledges to participate are due to the VRA by January 31, 2006.

Paint Wise Portal is Launched

Earth 911 has joined with the National Paint and Coatings Association (NPCA) and the Product Stewardship Institute, Inc. (PSI) to launch a consumer information portal about how to reduce reuse, and more accurately calculate how much paint is needed for a job. The portal is called Paint Wise.

PSI estimates that approximately 650 million gallons of paint are sold in the United States each year and that between 16 and 35 million gallons become surplus paint.

Paint Wise educates consumers with how to purchase, apply, store and manage paint once it has reached its end life. Consumers can also learn about local options for donating, recycling and disposing of old paint.

The Paint Wise Information portal is www.Paint.Earth911.org

Pilot Project for Fluorescent Lamp Recycling

In this country alone, there are more than 500 million fluorescent lamps that are replaced each year. Each lamp contains approximately 10 mg of mercury vapor. If these lamps are not recycled, the mercury vapor in these lamps can be released into the environment.

In January, 2005, DEQ partnered with the US EPA Region III to study ways to facilitate the recycling of fluorescent lamps by businesses and building managers as part of its waste minimization initiative.

Three of the top 10 property managers in the Northern Virginia area have committed to voluntary recycling of 100% of their lamps by the end of the calendar year. These companies include, Trammell Crow, Transwestern Commercial Services and EMCOR. As a result of their commitment, each property manager received an "Esquire Environmental Champions Award for Contribution to a Cleaner Environment" plaque.

Since January, 2005, seventeen other properties in Virginia have joined this effort and have committed to additional waste reduction activities.

DEQ is challenging other Virginia property managers to voluntarily commit to recycle their fluorescent lamps too. Property managers who commit to recycle will be recognized on the DEQ website and DEQ will send them a "Certificate of Appreciation."

Interested property managers can contact DEQ's Tom Griffin at rtgriffin@deq.virginia.gov or download a copy of the "Fluorescent Lamp Recycling Commitment Pledge" from DEQ's web site below. The pledge can either be emailed to Mr. Griffin or faxed to 804-698-4533. To learn more about fluorescent lamp recycling visit: www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/mercury/fluorescents or <http://lamprecycle.org/>

Motor Oil Recycling

Motor Oil doesn't wear out – it just gets dirty. There are several benefits to recycling motor oil. It can be cleaned and reused as motor oil again, or it can be used in a furnace for heat or be used by a power station to generate energy. Recycling oil also has the added benefit of decreasing our need to buy oil from abroad.

Here are the steps for recycling used motor oil from the Environmental Protection Agency:

- 1) Do not spill any oil on the ground.
- 2) Put your used motor oil in a clean plastic container with a tight lid. Never store used oil in a container that once held chemicals, food or beverages.
- 3) Do not mix the oil with anything else, such as antifreeze, solvent, or paint
- 4) Take used motor oil to a service station or other location that collects used motor oil for recycling.

For more information about recycling and locating used motor oil, oil filters and antifreeze collection sites, visit DEQ's web site at: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/recycle/usedoil.html>, or visit the Environmental Protection Agency's web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/usedoil/#pubs>

Unwanted Cell Phones Have their Calling Too

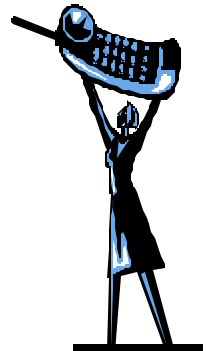
Cell phone collections offer a way to raise funds for the organization of your choice. For example, CKA Associates indicates they will pay \$2.50 for each phone collected and will cover the postage too. Their web site also has suggested public service announcements that can be modified for your organization's purpose. Visit them at:

<http://www.ckarecycleaid.com/>

Some retailers will accept your old cell phones at their drop off sites. One example of a retail store that accepts phones is Staples.

DEQ has compiled a list of organizations that want your phones. For more ideas on where to send your phones, visit DEQ's web site at:

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/ecycling/links.html> and scroll down to the information about cell phone recycling programs. You may also search for cell phone recycling locations by zip code at <http://call2recycle.org/pages/locator.html>.



Hanover and Chesterfield to get new Recycling Facilities

Newmarket Trading Group has announced plans to open a computer recycling facility in Hanover.

Redemtech, Inc. plans to open a facility in Chesterfield. Redemtech helps agencies to extend the useful life of their IT systems which also includes proper disposal and recycling of obsolete IT systems.

Governor Warner is quoted as saying; "Recycling electronic equipment is a vital service that can help bridge the digital divide. For more information on the plans for Hanover go to:

<http://www.recyclingtoday.com/news/news.asp?ID=8620>

For information about plans for Chesterfield, visit:

http://www.richmond.com/news/output.aspx?Article_ID=3936120&Vertical_ID=155&tier=20&position=2